Chapter 4
Impact of E-Government on Transparency and Corruption in Iran

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ABSTRACT

Iran also is not exceptional case in terms of E- government when applications have emerged rapidly almost all countries in glob to use E- government as an enabling tool to increase efficiency, enhance transparency, collect more revenue and facilitate public sector reform. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is transforming the governmental processes in serving citizens (G2C), businesses (G2B) and governments (G2G).Due to various economic, social and political limitations and pressures, most countries of the world has already began the implementation of e-government architecture in sectors where it seems more necessary and they focus their investments in these areas. Many works which find out on impact of E-government have shown that while E-government is not a remedy and magic to solve all problem, it is just a powerful enabling tool that has aided governments to achieve some of their development and administrative reform goals. Hence E-government is not a complete solution, but can be a catalyst for change E-government must be a part of broader commitment to reform the public sector. Since, sill is there some obstacle which we could categorize in three factors and all this factors are critical for the successful implementation of E-government. The first is willingness to reform, secondly, availability of information and communication technology infrastructure and finally the institutional capacity to absorb and manage change. So in this purpose we try to analyze the potential impact of E-government on transparency and corruption in Iranian society. Moreover, this article attempted to give details the extent to which corruption and transparency have been impacted in implemented on corruption in Iran. Enhancing transparency and reducing corruption are identified. Evidence shows that E-government has had a significant impact on broader government goals where political leadership and a commitment to reform have been present. In this work the authors try to distinguish the main obstacles such like legal, social and cultural and some other obstacles concerned.

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is not a new phenomenon it is there in the society from ages. The degree of corruption has varied from time to time and today it is prevalent in all the spheres of life. There are the numbers of reason, why corruption is there. The government has adopted a number of ways to control corruption but it has shown its ugly head at all places from time to time. E- Government can be helpful in tackling corruption due to its inherent advantages like easier access and transparency. Let us now understand the concept and how it can be helpful in tackling corruption in the developing nations like Iran.

It is believed that IT is the most important factor for integrating the developing and developed countries. We cannot ignore the effect of World Wide Web in our daily life even in developing

Countries. The Internet is spreading into almost every part of the world and we face every day emergence of new application and technologies. This trend is transforming societies into societies, e-business, e-healthcare, and e-government and so forth, have already been substantially developed in many developed countries. Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as a tool of socio-economic development, is a significant issue for developing countries (Odedra, 1996).

Through declining hardware costs and increasing benefits, IT has been spreading into developing countries. There is a rapid expansion in the use of IT in many sectors of the economy, particularly in public organizations. However this usually occurs with external 'assistance'. As latecomers to the IT scene, developing countries face enormous difficulties - perhaps the most important being that they are becoming users of IT without building up the necessary infrastructure, planning and manpower to support it (Kirlidog, 1996).

Countries are being encouraged to attract economic growth by entering the 'information age', and being able to supply or compete at the multinational level. Therefore, there is no wonder that many developing countries are trying to bridge the development gap by means of technology acquisition (Castells, 1996). It believes that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is one of the main factors of economic, social and cultural growth. Therefore, developing countries, in particular Iran, need to urgently develop a culturally appropriate national strategy if they wish information and communication technology (ICT) to have a positive impact on their overall socio-economic development. Iran needs to decide what they want from the global technology marketplace and then work out how they are going to achieve it.

The paper presented some background information of Iran and discusses the importance of IT discuses. Moreover, this article attempted to give details the extent to which corruption and transparency have been impacted in the project that have

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